

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Sheriff's Office Partners With Nationally Recognized Use of Force Experts

November 17, 2020

The Washington County Sheriff's Office recognizes public trust and accountability are of the utmost importance.

To ensure that all Washington County Sheriff's Office policies, procedures, standards, training, evaluation, and accountability related to the use of force align with best practices, the Sheriff's Office has contracted with [Polis Solutions](#). After conducting a national search, receiving proposals from five vendors, and conducting a thorough evaluation, Polis was awarded the \$149,700 contract. Under the contract, Polis will thoroughly review all elements of WCSO operations and administration related to the use of force.

Polis Solutions is a national research and training company that develops and implements customized, evidence-based programs for police, criminal justice, and other government and private organizations designed to improve public trust and safety. Polis Solutions' diverse team integrates experience and expertise in policing, training and education, social science, technology development, and organizational leadership and reform. Polis is nationally known for its innovative programs in areas such as de-escalation, community trust-building, use of force, and officer decision-making.

For the past 175 years, the Washington County Sheriff's Office has been pioneers in law enforcement. We continuously strive to facilitate deeper engagement with internal and external stakeholders across our community. The Sheriff's Office commits to assess and improve practices in order to foster community trust and safety.

Sheriff Pat Garrett stated, "Our decision to invite nationally recognized experts to review our use of force training and policy supports our vision of enhancing public safety by fostering a culture of professionalism, compassion, and trust within our Sheriff's Office team and the communities we serve. This project aligns with our community's interest regarding police use of force, and our commitment to being a learning organization focused on continuous improvement."

Over the next six months, Polis Solutions will interview key Sheriff's Office stakeholders and a diverse range of community members, visit our facilities, review policies and procedures, and analyze use of force data. In April 2021, Polis Solutions will present a final report with their findings and recommendations and will work with the Sheriff's Office to develop an implementation plan. The report will be made available to the public.



**SHERIFF**  
WASHINGTON COUNTY

**MEDIA CONTACT: 503-209-5613**

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We look forward to working with Polis Solutions on this progressive effort and invite inquiries from the media and all interested parties. Polis also invites direct inquiries, comments, and questions about this project via email at [info@polis-solutions.com](mailto:info@polis-solutions.com).



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